Through a process of countrywide consultation, 162 hydro-electric schemes, with an estimated capacity of 50,560 MW, have been indentified for preparation of feasibility studies. This initiative for tapping 50,000 MW of hydro power was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on May 24,2003 and will pave the way for the creation of a shelf of project which will be implemented in the next two Five Year Plans. This exercise is being undertaken by various organizations under the overall coordination of CEA.

The Pre-Feasibility Report (PFRs) will provide useful information to prospective developers for taking up detailed Survey and Investigation and DPR formulation and facilitate the accelerated development of balance Hydro Electric Potential in the country. This is considered essential to generate a shelf of project which could be taken up for execution during Eleventh and Twelfth Plan and beyond.

The Govt. has also approved a three stage clearance procedure for al hydel projects to be executed by the Central Public Sector Undertakings in consultation with the Ministries of Finance and Environment and Forests. This procedure will help in avoiding time and cost over-run of projects.

Exemption to Mega Power Projects

1665. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1999, Government had announced Mega Power Project Policy according to which the Thermal Power projects having a capacity of 1000 MW or more and selling power to more than one State are exempted from all customs and other duties levied by Government:

(b) if so, the details of unis which have come up under this policy and the exemption that the Government has given to such units since 1999, year-wise and unit-wise; and

(c) the details of projects notified by Government under "Mega Power Project Policy"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The revised Mega Power Policy of

the Government of India was announced in November , 1998 which provides for zero customs duty for import of capital equipment for 19 identified inter-State mega power projects. In addition, the income-tax holiday has been continued with the provison that the tax holiday period of 10 years can be claimed by a promoter in any block of 10 years within the first 15 years. The enabling notifications under the relevant provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962) were issued during 1999 and 18 identified projects which had a capacity each of 1000 MW or more in the case of thermal projects and 500 MW or more in the case of hydro-electric projects, have been notified for waiver of cutoms duty on import of capital goods. One of the identified projects *viz.*, the Chamera-II Hydroelectric Project was not notified for the customs waiver benefits since its capacity was less than 500 MW.

In addition to the above, the Sipat Super Thermal Power Project (4x660MW) being implemented by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in Chhattisgarh has been accorded mega power project status by the Government of India in December, 2001. The enabling customs notification for the Sipat project has been issued in 2002.

(b) No mega power project has been commissioned so far.

(c) Details of the above mentioned mega power projects notified for the customs duty exemption are given in the Statement (*See* below). As per the latest amendment to the Customs Notification issued in March, 2003, the customs duty waiver has since been extended to all inter-State projects which fulfill the basic criteria of minimum capacity of 1000 MW for thermal and 500 MW for hydel projects subject to certification by the Ministry of Power.

Statement

Mega power project notified for customs duty exemption

Sl. No.	Name of the project/State	Capacity (MW)
Private Sector		
1	Hirma Thermal Power Projects, M/s Southern Electric Asia Power Ltd(SEAP), Orissa	3960
2	Cuddalore Thermal Power Project, Tamil Nadu	1000
3	Krishnapatam Thermal Power Project, Andhra Pradesh	150

Sl. No.	Name of the project/State	Capacity (MW)
4	Pipavav Thermal Power Project, Gujarat	2000
5	Narmada Thermal Power Project (LNG), Gujarat	1000
Public Sector		
1	Kahalgaon Thermal Power Project Stage-II, NTPC, Bihar	1500
2	North Karanpura Thermal Power Project, NTPC, Bihar	2000
3	Barh Thermal Power Project Stage-I, NTPC, Bihar	2000
4	Maithon Thermal Power Project, Damodar Valley Corporation	1000
5	Cheyyur Thermal Power Project, Stage-I NTPC, Tamil Nadu	1500
6	Anta CCPP, NTPC, Rajasthan	1300
7	Auraiya CCPP, NTPC, Uttar Pradesh	1300
8	Kawas CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Gujarat	1300
9	Gandhar CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Gujarat	1300
10	Koel Karo HEP, NHPC, Bihar	710
11	Teesta HEP Stage-V, NHPC, Sikkim	510
12	Koldam HEP, NTPC, Himachal Pradesh	800
13	Parvati HEP Stage-II, NHPC, Himachal Pradesh	800
14	Sipat Super Thermal Power Project, NTPC, Chhattisgarh	2640

Teesta Hydro-Electric Project

1666. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Teesta Hydro-electric and irrigation project is lying pending for years with its cost escalating every day;

(b) whether Government has released its share of the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Goverrnment of India has sanctioned the Teesta Hydroelectric Project Stage-V in Sikkim in the month of February 2000 for execution at an estimated cost of Rs. 2198.04 crores (at April, 1999 price level) with a debt equity ratio of 1:1. As per the sanctioned, the project is to be completed in a period of 84 months from the date of sanction, which also includes 24 months for development of infrastructrue facilities.

(b) and (c) The share of Government as Equity in the project is